

County of San Diego

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July 25, 2003

Mr. Bill Tippets California Department of Fish & Game 4949 Viewridge Avenue San Diego CA 92123

Ms. Susan Wynn U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 6010 Hidden Valley Road Carlsbad. CA 92009

Dear Mr. Tippets and Ms. Wynn:

The County of San Diego is pleased to provide the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) information on the County's commitment to meet its obligations under the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). Although a regional funding source for the MSCP has not yet been established for the implementation of the MSCP, the County Board of Supervisors continues to commit general funds to pay for the MSCP.

Thank you for your review and acceptance of the enclosed regional contribution report. If you have any questions, please contact Robert Asher, Chief, MSCP Division, Department of Planning and Land Use at 858-694-3722, or Cory Linder, Chief, Open Space Division, Department of Parks and Recreation at 858-694-3367.

Sincerely,

GARY L. PRYOR DIRECTOR PLANNING AND LAND USE

RENÉE E. BAHL DIRECTOR PARKS AND RECREATION



THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO CONTRIBUTION TO THE MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SPRING 2003









County of San Diego Board of Supervisors

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Director, Department of Parks and Recreation Renée Bahl

Chief, Multiple Species Conservation Program Robert E. Asher



During the last 28 years the County of San Diego has acquired and managed more than 35,600 acres of open space and parkland including MSCP preserve lands, urban canyons, river courses, wetlands, mountain and meadows. Some of these properties may provide for minimal development, such as trails and staging areas as appropriate, with a focus on preservation of endangered species or cultural resources.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is responsible for the acquisition, management and monitoring of open space. Since early 1970, the County has made a financial and policy commitment to acquire and manage properties with important natural and cultural resources that are subject to the greatest danger of being lost. These parks and preserves include Guajome Regional Park, San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, Sweetwater Regional Park, Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, South Bay Biological Study Area, Agua Caliente Regional Park, Volcan Mountain Preserve, Sycamore Canyon Preserve, Mt. Gower Preserve, El Capitan Preserve, Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, and Hellhole Canyon.

Since the Board of Supervisors adopted the MSCP, an additional 1,897.78 acres of land have been acquired by the County within the MSCP. These lands include key biological resource core and linkage areas.



These preserves provide protection for a number of sensitive habitats and contain more than 100 rare or threatened plants and animals. Sensitive habitats include Coastal sage scrub, freshwater and saltwater marsh, oak woodlands, riparian habitat, grassland and vernal pools. Species found within these lands include the least Bell's vireo, California gnatcatcher, Engelmann oak, and San Diego thornmint.

Ongoing Activities

North County MSCP Subarea Plan

The County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) is continuing its planning effort for North County MSCP Subarea Plan. It will be a significant addition to the County's open space system incorporating many of the ideals



contained in the County's successful MSCP Plan. The North County MSCP Subarea roughly encompasses the areas north of the San Dieguito River, Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove, north of Camp Pendleton, DeLuz, Fallbrook, Rainbow, Pauma Valley, Lilac, Valley Center, Rancho Guejito and the majority of Ramona.

Like the existing MSCP Subarea Plan, the North County MSCP Subarea Plan will enable the County to gain coverage for species of plants and animals that are considered rare and endangered or are likely to become endangered. The Subarea Plan will include many of the 85 species covered in the existing MSCP Plan but also some additional species -- the most notable being the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat which lives in grasslands and the San Diego fairy shrimp which inhabits vernal pools. Approval of the North County MSCP Subarea Plan will give the County permitting authority and will provide a more effective and streamlined development permit approval process. Another opportunity that exists within the North County MSCP Subarea Plan is the ability to coordinate construction of the much-needed improvements to State Highway 76 with the formation of an expansive regional park in the San Luis Rey River Valley. The County and its consultant, AMEC, and its subcontractors, Technology Associates International Corporation and the Conservation Biology Institute, are continuing their efforts to collect environmental data and prepare a plan for the North County Subarea. Independent Science Advisors have made recommendations designed to enhance and fortify the planning process.

Working Landscapes

A unique opportunity exists in San Diego County to coordinate the MSCP with working landscape programs. These two types of programs could compliment each other by conserving resources and providing regulation relief to land owners.



Our definition of a working landscape is one in which agriculture, forestry, and other natural resource based activities are conducted in ways that are economically viable and with best management practices, preserve habitat for wildlife. As part of its North County MSCP Subarea Plan effort, the County held a Conservation and Working Landscapes Forum on November 19, 2002 to provide a venue in which experts in this field gathered to

evaluate and analyze potential programs and determine their value and applicability to San Diego County. It was an opportunity to identify correlations and overlaps between various programs and to identify the best potential sources of funding. The outcome included recommendations of several promising working landscape programs for the County of San Diego to pursue. A follow-up working landscapes workshop is tentatively scheduled for Summer of 2003.

The future North County and East County Subarea Plans need to address the issue of how agricultural lands such as farms, ranches and orchards, can provide sources of habitat for local endangered or threatened species. While members of the agricultural community are already good stewards of the land, the County feels that by providing incentives for conservation, the County can enable the agricultural community to go above and beyond their current stewardship of the land and enable the land to remain in private ownership. Best Management Options (BMOs) could provide valuable guidance for landowners to assure protection of wildlife.

By providing landowners with the opportunity to get involved in programs that encourage the application of BMOs and the conservation of habitat, the County of San Diego will potentially be more effective and cost-efficient in conserving habitat in the large expanses of North and East County. There are emerging funded programs at the state and federal level that may support a Working Landscapes program pilot project or similar conservation programs.

Quino checkerspot butterfly

Through working to gain coverage for the Quino checkerspot butterfly under the San County's MSCP, it has become apparent that there is a need for a program to manage and monitor its populations. Furthermore, there is a desire to create a process to enhance its populations through habitat manipulation. Because of the characteristics of the Quino checkerspot butterfly's life cycle, there are difficulties in assessing its numbers,



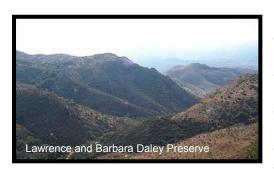
distribution and presence on a site from year to year. In order to evaluate this butterfly's location in a particular environment, it has been suggested that it would be useful to prepare an "Envirogram" -- a diagram that illustrates the habitat attributes and stressors for the species as well as their relationships. The County contracted independent science advisors to gather input to address the potential for habitat enhancement through the creation of an experimental design to be performed in test areas, and to address the methods used to perform surveys. We will continue to conduct surveys and coordinate our findings with the Wildlife Agencies and other stakeholders in anticipation of preparing an amendment to the MSCP for consideration by the Board of Supervisors in the second half of 2003. The final product will be a document that comprises the basis for a management, enhancement and monitoring plan for the Quino checkerspot butterfly.

The following are specific responses to questions posed by your Agencies as part of the required three-year Obligation Report:

Identify the key actions that your jurisdiction has undertaken/completed to meet these MSCP IA requirements

Habitat Acquisition – Contribution to local share: list only projects that are attributable to acquisition using your jurisdiction's funds (not state/federal funds), mitigation land, "exactions" and other habitat acres that have been added to the preserve system within your jurisdiction.

Direct Acquisition lands



In FY's 00 – 03, the County of San Diego budgeted a total of \$8.1 million for acquisition of properties identified in the MSCP. To date, approximately \$7.1 million has been spent to acquire 16 properties totaling 1,897.78 acres. The remaining \$1 million will be spent to purchase additional MSCP properties. The 1,897.78 acres includes acquisition acreage for properties that were acquired with state matching grant funds. The total

acreage for these properties is included because the state funds were awarded on a competitive basis.

"Exaction Lands"

A total of 4,546 acres have obtained through exactions from the inception of the MSCP to date. Details on these exactions (including GIS derived maps) have previously been provided in the County of San Diego MSCP Annual Reports. This information was developed using Habitrak.

Habitat Accounting – Provide a table and/or graphic showing the habitat take and conservation by habitat type (Habitrak).

Please see attached Summary of Habitat Losses and Gains. The total Habitat Gain within the Preserve area since inception of the MSCP is 68,396.3 acres. The total Habitat Loss within the Preserve area since inception of the MSCP is 5,812.6 acres.

Preserve Land Management – Briefly identify and describe the status of the Framework Management Plan and area-specific directive/management plans. Identify areas for which ongoing management of habitat lands within your

jurisdictional authority are occurring. Briefly describe these actions, how they are funded, and provide the actual or projected cost per acre, if available.

Framework Management Plan

The MSCP Framework Management Plan has been completed and sent to the Wildlife Agencies for approval. It can be found on the MSCP Portal Website at www.mscp-sandiego.org under "Regulatory Documents."

Funding for management activities is also allocated within the DPR budget. The cost of \$37.00 per acre, pursuant to the Implementing Agreement for the MSCP, is authorized to assure management and monitoring of the habitat/preserve lands. Currently the County DPR budget includes over \$2,000,000 to pay for management of over 1,789.08 acres of MSCP preserves. The remaining 108.7 acres acquired by the County are located in Wrights Field and are managed by the Back Country Land Trust. In addition, the DPR Open Space Division has added ten new staff positions for MSCP stewardship and other preserve management duties.

Stewardship

Over the last three years, the County has acquired habitat land within the MSCP preapproved areas in the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, Lakeside Archipelago, Wright's Field, San Vicente, Hollenbeck Canyon and Lusardi Creek. The DPR has removed trash, posted, gated and placed bollards to regulate access to all of these recently acquired preserve areas. In the Lakeside Archipelago, the County DPR is also removing some of the redundant trails and will revegetate these areas with native species. Basic stewardship is ongoing and consists of regulating access, trail maintenance, litter removal, fencing and providing outreach materials. At this time, funding is allocated from the DPR and DPLU budgets.

Cultural Surveys

The County will conduct cultural resource surveys for all properties contained in the MSCP preserve system in conjunction with preparation of area specific management directives. The surveys will provide an inventory of historic and prehistoric cultural resource that requires management.

Area Specific Management Plans

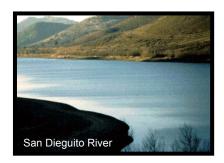
Funding measures to support adaptive management activities are included in all of the following projects as "conditions of approval" with the exception of 4S Ranch.

a. 4S Ranch

4S Ranch provides for "stewardship management" with right of entry for the County or its agent to carry out adaptive management activities. Stewardship requires the property owners to take responsibility for the maintenance of the open space, while monitoring becomes the responsibility of the County.



b. Starwood



The Starwood (Crosby Estates) Habitat Management Plan address adaptive management needs of covered species on this site located at the west side of the Santa Fe Valley Specific Planning Area. The document has been through five iterations and is still pending final approval based on discussions with the San Dieguito River Park group over management responsibilities of trails through the property.

c. Bernardo Lakes

The County of San Diego has approved the Habitat Management Plan for Bernardo Lakes in 2001. The Environmental Trust is the land manager for the property. It is expected that annual reports be received and reviewed by County staff. A trust balance of funds will be maintained for staff to charge time for the costs of reviewed reports and performing field visits.

d. <u>Crestridge</u>



The County of San Diego contracted with the Back Country Land Trust to prepare a Habitat Management Plan for the Crestridge Preserve that was completed in 2002 and forwarded to the CDFG. The statement of work for the contract was reviewed jointly with staff from the CDFG and USFWS to ensure consistency with the MSCP Biological Monitoring Program recommendations. A CDFG Local Assistance Grant in the amount of \$68,159 funded this project.

e. Otay Ranch

The County is in partnership with the City of Chula Vista as the Preserve Owner Manager (POM) of the Otay Ranch The Board of Supervisors is anticipated to accept Irrevocable Offers of Dedication for approximately 517 acres in August 2003. Until land has been transferred to the Preserve Owner Manager, the Landowners are responsible for stewardship management pursuant to the Otay Ranch Plan. Upon such time as fee title is deeded



to the POM, the management requirements of the Resource Management Plan, Phases 1 and 2, will be followed. As development occurs on Otay Ranch funds will be collected through Mello Roos District 97-2, established by the City of Chula Vista to support monitoring and management activities of the POM.

Preserve Monitoring - Briefly describe what monitoring is occurring within the habitat lands under your jurisdiction. Relate these efforts to the MSCP Biological Monitoring Program recommendations. Briefly describe who carries out these actions, how they are funded, and provide the actual or projected costs by some quantifiable measure (per task, per site, etc), if available.

County staff and its consultants have participated in conducting the following surveys funded by CDFG Local Assistance Grants except as otherwise noted. The Statements of Work were carefully reviewed and prepared in coordination with Wildlife Agency staff to ensure consistency with the MSCP Biological Monitoring Program recommendations.

Coastal Sage Scrub Bird Monitoring in the Lakeside Archipelago (2000) (\$25,537)

The study area consisted of two County owned Coastal sage scrub patches of approximately 45 acres and 48 acres in the Lakeside Archipelago. The work entailed the preparation of an Biological Monitoring Protocol Report which; 1) Assessed the biological resources of the parcels, 2) Established baseline biological data for the parcels, 3) Evaluated monitoring protocol



as cited in the "Biological Monitoring Plan for the Multiple Species Conservation Program". Prepared by Ogden, dated 1996, and Point Count data from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Otay-Sweetwater Unit, Huffman), and 4) Developed monitoring protocols for the California gnatcatcher and resource linkage.

<u>Lakeside Archipelago Reserve Function: Dispersal Study of the California Gnatcatcher</u> (*Polioptila californica*) in the Vicinity of Interstate 8 (2002) (\$69,431).



The first-year interim report has been transmitted to the CDFG. The final report is due to the Wildlife Agencies at the end of June 2003.

Gnatcatcher found in I-8 Study

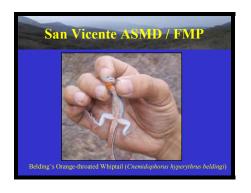
Habitat Surveys and Population Monitoring of Arroyo Southwestern Toads and Pacific Pond Turtles Preliminary Survey Results (2002) (\$183,264)

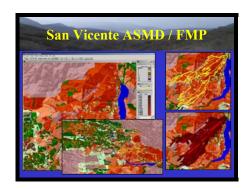




The County has contracted with USGS to perform these studies. The first-year interim report has been transmitted to the CDFG.

Development of a Fire Management Plan for a Selected Multiple Species Conservation Program/Natural Community Conservation Planning Reserve to be combined with the County of San Diego, DPR's San Vicente property Multiple Species Conservation Program Framework Management Plan and Area Specific Management Directives. This property is owned by the CDFG. (\$150,000)





The County has contracted with KTU&A Landscape Architecture and Planning and its sub-consultants, Gallegos & Associates and Merkel & Associates to perform these studies. The first-year interim report has been transmitted to the CDFG.

Plant Surveys on Properties Within the MSCP Preserve (2001-2003) (\$154,800)

County MSCP staff and their consultants, Fred Roberts, Fred Sproul, and KEA Environmental, Inc., have performed plant surveys on various properties within the MSCP Preserve. The results for years 2001-2002 have been transmitted to the Department of Fish and Game and the 2002-2003 surveys will be completed in June 2003.



Development of a Fire Management Plan and Area Specific Directives for Barnett Ranch within the County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program/Natural Community Conservation Planning Area (\$99,990)

The County has contracted with Helix Environmental Planning and its sub-consultants to perform these studies. The funding source is the County of San Diego General Fund.

<u>Aerial Digital Imaging Technologies to Enhance Field Mapping and Monitoring</u> (\$45,363)

The County of San Diego contracted with Doug Stow of the San Diego State University Foundation to evaluate the application of high-resolution digital imagery for comprehensively monitoring the status of habitat within sections of the MSCP preserve. The tasks were completed in 2002 and the results were transmitted to the CDFG.

There has been a reduction in the amount of grant funding available from the CDFG for Management and Monitoring projects. The amount available decreased from \$1.2 million to \$600,000. The County is mandated to manage and monitor its lands in

conformance with the adopted MSCP. There will be a need for continued funding for the MSCP management and monitoring activities.

Briefly describe how your jurisdiction will ensure meeting its commitments for future:

Habitat Acquisition

County of San Diego Strategic Plan

Three major initiatives are set forth in the County of San Diego Strategic Plan: Kids, the Environment and Safe and Livable Communities. The mission statement of the Environmental Initiative is to "Promote natural resource management strategies that ensure environmental preservation, quality of life, and economic development." The first item listed is to "Implement habitat conservation programs including planning, acquisitions, management and monitoring."

County of San Diego General Funds

The County Board of Supervisors has increased the level of general funds appropriated for the MSCP from \$2 million in FY97-98 to \$6 million in FY02-03. The County can support this commitment through is strong financial outlook, evidenced by its ability to list its public income notes (PINES) on the NYSE.

Out of the total County acquisition requirement of 9,425 acres as set forth in the MSCP Subarea Plan, 1,897.78 acres have been acquired by the County to date (April 11, 2003). The total cost is shown is \$14,253,333 (\$7,155,687 grant funding and \$7,097,646 was from General Fund).

Preserve management and monitoring

The Board of Supervisors has continued to approve \$3.3 million per year in ongoing funding for management and monitoring of parks and open space as required by the MSCP Implementation Agreement.

Encouraged by the County Board of Supervisors' support for the program, the Federal and State funding agencies have provided additional funding of over \$700,000 for the monitoring and management. There is no match requirement for this state funding.

Identify the projected costs and the proposed or committed funding level and source(s).

Planning

Upon adoption of the MSCP, the Board of Supervisors directed the staff to apply for Federal funds for the MSCP. The County has been very successful to date (as a member of the Five County Funding Group) in obtaining federal grant funds. This is due in large part to the partnerships it has formed with the agencies. To date, the County has received \$2,044.450 in federal planning dollars. There is a 100% match requirement for this funding which the County has provided through its General Fund on an annual basis.

Land Acquisition

The Board of Supervisors is expected to approve \$2.7 million per year in ongoing funding to be used for MSCP land acquisition.

Management and Monitoring

The MSCP will continue to apply for CDFG Local Assistance Funding and other potential funding sources. The Board of Supervisors has continued to approve \$3.3 million per year in ongoing funding for management and monitoring of parks and open space as required by the MSCP Implementation Agreement.

County General Fund Summary (Actual)

Activity/Year	FY 98-99	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02	FY 02-03	TOTAL
Land Acquisition	\$1,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$12,500,000
Manage. & Monitoring	300,000	300,000	1,300,000	3,300,000	3,300,000	8,500,000
LWCF Planning Match)	368,350	250,000	\$250,000	250,000	663,000	1,781,350
Total	\$2,193,350	\$3,250,000	\$5,250,000	\$6,250,000	\$6,663,000	\$22,781,350

Funding Summary (Three-Year Projection)

Activity/Year	FY 03-04	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	TOTAL
Land Acquisition*	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$12,500,000
Management& Monitoring	3,300,000	3,300,000	3,300,000	9,900,000
LWCF Planning Match)	250,000	250,000	0	500,000
Total	\$6,250,000	\$6,250,000	\$6,000,000	\$18,500,000

Table 5

Summary of Project Gains

2002 Annual Report Start Date: 1 January 2002 End Date: 31 December 2002 Duration in days: 365

Project Tracking#	Project Name	Location	Applicant	APN	Date Cons.	Status	Mgmt. Resp.	Conservation Type	Inside Habitat Preserve	Mit. Bank Credits	Acres
02-0019	Cielo Ridge		Bailey, John		7/9/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		32.39
02-0018	Rancho Cialo de Lusardi		Lusardi, Wamer		7/9/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		18.61
02-0002	TM 14351		Starwood Capital Group, LLC		3/6/02	Gain	Private	Easement	No		4.46
Total for: Lake Ho	dges									0	55.46
02-0125	BP Vaughan		Vaughan, John		11/7/02	Gain	Private	Easement	No		2.87
02-0145	COI Bradley Homes		Bradley Homes		1/25/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		1.51
02-0072	COI Performance Properties		Performance Properties Inc.		8/14/02	Gain	Private	Easement	No		14.34
02-0030	GP Profiler		Proffer, William		6/26/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		1.41
02-0141	PM 14583		Sheila Investors		12/10/02	Gain	Private	Easement	No		1.23
02-0108	PM 19095		Metzler, Donald		11/8/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		27.27
02-0318	Ramona Serona Acquisition		County of San Diego		1/25/02	Gain	Local	Acquisition	Yes		680.35
02-0315	Shular Acquisition		County of San Diego		12/16/02	Gain	Local	Acquisition	Yes		64.57
02-0001	TM 14343		Kennedy Development of California, LLC		2/13/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		0.17
02-0003	TM 14352		RB		3/6/02	Gain	Private	Easement	No		113.73
02-0010	TM 18999		Fenton, Justin		6/19/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		278.77

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MSCP ANNUAL REPORT 2002

Table 5 cont. Project Tracking#	Project Name	Location	Applicant	APN	Date Cons.	Status	Mgmt. Resp.	Conservation Type	Inside Habitat Preserve	Mit. Bank Credits	Acres
Total for: North N	tetro-Lakeside-Jamul									0	1,187.22
02-0375	BLM Acquisitions 2002		BLM		6/30/02	Gain	Federal	Acquisition	Yes		622.90
02-0325	Otay Ranch		Otay Ranch		1/1/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		118.55
Total for: South (County									0	741.45
02-0223	BP Carryon View Estates		Carryon View Estates 2002 LLC		5/30/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		0.29
02-0224	BP Carryon View Estates 2		Canyon View Estates 2002 LLC		5/30/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		1.50
02-0226	BP Carryon View Estates 4		Canyon View Estates 2002 LLC		5/30/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		0.27
02-0227	BP Carryon View Estates 5		Canyon View Estates 2002 LLC		5/30/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		1.51
02-0205	BP Holmes		Holmes, Daryl		9/10/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		0.94
02-0201	BP Porter		Porter, Steven		5/2/02	Gain	Private	Easement	No		0.97
02-0143	PM 19117		McManus, Randall		12/12/02	Gain	Private	Easement	No		0.49
02-0330	State Acquisition 2002		State of California		6/30/02	Gain	State	Acquisition	Yes		256.52
02-0006	TM 18913		Razooky, Samir		3/5/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		145.58
02-0007	TM 18917		Paulsue Family Trust		3/11/02	Gain	Private	Easement	No		0.87
02-0009	TM 18958		Lively, Riley		5/3/02	Gain	Private	Easement	Yes		44.98
02-0328	USFWS 2002 Acquisitions		USFWS		s/1s/02	Gain	Federal	Acquisition	Yes		88.21
Total for: South I	Motro-Lakesicke-Jamul									0	542.13

Total Acres Conserved Mittigation Bank Credits: 0

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2,526.26

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